

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-20 /084 W  
-----048382 251331Z /64

R 242042Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2864  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

UNCLAS ASUNCION 1652

EO 11652: NA  
TAGS: SHUM, PA  
SUBJECT: RELEASES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

1. THE GOP RELEASED 20 POLITICAL PRISONERS APRIL 20 AND AN ADDITIONAL 20 ON APRIL 21. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TWO ALLEDGED MOPOCP PLOTTERS, SILVIO RAMON FERNANDEZ AND DELICIANO FRANCO, THE REMAINDER WERE ALL DETAINED FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT WITH THE SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZACION POLITICO-MILITAR (OPM) AND MOST WERE DETAINED IN APRIL OR MAY OF 1976. ALL HAD BEEN HELD WITHOUT CHARGES AND WITHOUT A JUDICIAL HEARING, AND ALL BUT FIVE WERE PEASANT FARMERS FROM MISIONES DISTRICT.

2. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY AN OFFICIAL SOURCE THAT THE MOST RECENT LISTS OF THOSE TO BE RELEASED WERE DRAWN UP BY INVESTIGATIONS POLICE CHIEF PASTOR CORONEL. IF SO, AND WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT IT, WE CONCLUDE THAT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE GOP HAVE FINALLY DECIDED TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS HELD WITHOUT CHARGES AND THAT PASTOR CORONEL HAS BEEN TOLD TO EITHER INDICATE THAT PRISONERS SHOULD BE FREED, OR TO FILE FORMAL CHARGES AGAINST THEM FOR JUDICIAL PROCESSING. PRESUMABLY THE 40 RELEASED ON APRIL 20 AND 21 REPRESENT PERSONS AGAINST WHOM THE POLICE FEEL THEY HAVE NO  
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CASE. THIS IN SPITE OF THEIR BEING HELD FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS.

3. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT THESE RECENT RELEASES ARE THE RESULT OF PRESSURES BROUGHT TO BEAR BY THE US HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS AND BY THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (IAHRC) REPORT ON PARAGUAY. THE GOP'S ACTION APPEARS TO BE KEYED TOWARD THE POSSIBILITY OF AN IAHRC VISIT AT SOME STILL UNDECIDED TIME AND

THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN JUNE WHERE THE IAHRG REPORT WILL BE ON THE AGENDA.

4. WITH THESE RELEASES THE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, ACCORDING TO EMBASSY RECORDS, COMES DOWN TO 90 INCLUDING 73 AT EMBOSCADA PRISON, NINE UNDER HOUSE ARREST AND EIGHT IN OTHER PRISONS.

5. THE NAMES OF THOSE RELEASED APRIL 20 ARE:

1. JUSTO EDUARDO AMARILLA PEREIRA
  2. MIDDONIO ARCE AVILA
  3. ELADIO BENITEZ GONZALEZ
  4. EULOGIO BENITEZ MAIDANA
  5. MIGUEL BENITEZ FERREIRA
  6. SILVERIO CESPEDES FERNANDEZ
  7. FRANCISCO HUMBERLINO DELGADO
  8. DOMINGO DIAZ
  9. SILVIO RAMON FERNANDEZ
  10. BONIFACIO FLORES
  11. FELICIANO FRANCO
  12. PEDRO FRETES MAIDANA
  13. JOSE TOMAS GONZALEZ BAEZ
  14. PASTOR LOPEZ BRITEZ
  15. VICTOR MARTINEZ MOREL
  16. BERNARDO MORINIGO PARADES
  17. LEOPOLDO MORINIGO PEDROZO
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18. ANDREW RIOS
19. JULIAN RUIZ BALBUENA
20. HERMENEGILDO SILVA

6. THE NAMES OF THOSE RELEASED APRIL 21 ARE:

1. ARUL AMARILLA
2. VICOTR MANUEL AYALA GIMENEZ
3. PEDRO BENITEZ GALEANO
4. RAFAEL BENITEZ PAEZ
5. TEODORO VICTORIANO DELGADO CONTI
6. VICENTE FALCON ESCOBAR
7. ANIBAL FRANCO VEGA
8. ERASMO FUNES FERNANDEZ
9. MARIANO FUNES FERNANDEZ
10. DIONICIO ABEL JARA LOPEZ
11. JACINTO LOPEZ ESTIGARRIBIA
12. JUAN CARLOS LOPEZ ESTIGARRIBIA
13. LAURENTINO LOPEZ ESTIGARRIBIA
14. PEDRO LOPEZ ESTIGARRIBIA
15. JOSE DEL ROSARIO MARTINEZ IRLA
16. SLAOMON MOREL MARTINEZ
17. RODRIGO SALOMON RUIZ DIAZ

18. FRANCISCO VERA  
19. SOTERO VERA GONZALEZ  
20. ANTOLINA VILLALBA  
WHITE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** DATA, POLITICAL PRISONERS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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